



**University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>**

Department of Evolutionary Biology  
and Environmental Studies

## **SEBES Seminar for Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies**

*Rethinking human–nonhuman primate “contact” and pathogenic disease spillover*

Please note change of room for this date

Speaker:	<b>Dr. Tamara Giles-Vernick</b> Institut Pasteur, Paris, France <a href="https://research.pasteur.fr/en/member/tamara-giles-vernick/">https://research.pasteur.fr/en/member/tamara-giles-vernick/</a>
Date/Time:	Thursday, 2017-11-16 15:00 to 16:00
Place:	Y15-G-40/UZH Irchel Winterthurerstr. 190;8057 Zürich
Access:	only intern
Host:	PD Dr. Marcus Hall

### **Abstract:**

Human-animal “contact” is an important driver of zoonotic disease transmissions. Although there is widespread agreement that more human-animal contact increases transmission risk, the term “contact” itself has not been analyzed. The uses of “contact” in literature may explain cross-species spillovers between humans and nonhuman primates (NHP). Although “contact” is frequently used, it is employed inconsistently and imprecisely, overlooking the range of pathogens, their transmission routes and directions, and the people, practices, ecologies, histories, and political economies that shape them. Both spatial and anthropological approaches to human-NHP engagements enhance our understanding of zoonotic spillovers. I address our ongoing research in Cameroon to illustrate how we bring into productive dialogue more precise definitions of “contact” and these two approaches.

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